ML

8 /9/67

Dear Betty,

You have no idea how I long to be working on other things, or how I know I dare not. It sounds vain, but the truth is that no one else is doing, can or will do what I am doing, or is likely to. I think there is nothing as important today. I hear the Heig Heils! in my sleep, with southern and yankee accents, coming from shirts not brown, but with the same potential. I don't want it. Yet I am so far past physical exhaustion I've had to change my plans. What was to be a single book will now be part of another that will combine two. Then I'll finish "Manchester Machiavelli: The Unintended Unofficial Whitewash", which I regard as necessary for public understand and historical perspective. Again, I think it unlikely no one else will do this aspect. Then the book I really want to do, "A Tiger To Ride: The Untold Story Of The Cuba Missle Crisis". Then I'll do no more books on this subject. By then, however, much more public speaking is possible.

This is something that is visceral in our society. It cannot be abandoned. I know who is workin in the field, what they are doing, what they can and cannot do and see, or will and will not do. I have no choice. I think yiu will ultimately agree and be satisfied I had to. I know what it is doing to both of us. I know the hazard of the hours I keep and the concentration. I feel it daily, always.

What Garrison is doing comes from my work. When I left him 3/2/ he turned to two members of the local press in his office (I also straightened out his press relations while I was there) and said, more to himself, "I think about the best thing that has happened to us is Hal coming here". He was not talking about my grand-jury testimony. Since then he had told several others I know that what was in his mind when I left was how much he hated to see me go, how much he wanted to xxx have me stay through the course of his proceedings. That was not possible. I did the latest book, from the first writing through the first off the bindery, in 28 days! Of course, I'd done the research earlier. But, I also had to do the makeup, for my artist was too busy. And I have to get the other work out before his major case goes to trial. I had done my New Orleans book before I went down there. Dell broke their contract. The other major houses shied off. Parallax is doing the text only. I fear doing a private edition that will be expensive, probably about 750 pages, in competition with a reprint. Yet I also want very much to print my documentation, which is more than 300 pages! You haven hardly seen my research. Garrison is right and is on the right trail, no matter what happens in court. NBC has been working with the CIA, hence their "special", which was corrupt. They tried to plant bad information on Garrison through me. Fortunately, I have it on tape. Unless they can frustrate his effort to bring them to trial (attempted bribery has already been charged), I expect to be a witness in that suit.

It is precisely the abdication of the intellectuals, of which the Fritchey column you enclose (thanks) is typical, that compels me to do what I hate doing, to live as I wouldx not.

Aside from the financial worry it brings, we'll soon be living in a much better and very beautiful environment. We've bought a home hidden in five acres of beautiful trees (I haven't yet learned how many of what kinds), a real bird sanctuary, with a pond and even a real swimming pool, where it will be more peaceful and is more quiet. We'll be camping until we can have the time and money to furnish it properly, but we'll have room for visitors (invitation), a separate room for each of us to work in, and a pleasant view in any direction when the eye ~~ga~~ off the paper. I am looking forward to it. The repair work

had begun but is going slowly. The only extensive work is in the kitchen. We're changing all the appliances (built in). We should be in by the first of October. I reall think end end of this month is possible, depending on the completion ofxthe work. We'll move gradually, for we'll be going over a lifetime's accumulation and unloading. Then I think I'll just have to get the exercise I have missed so. It has made my body an old man's.

You refer to the CBS shows. None of the criticisms they reported did not originate with me, including those they attributed to no one and to others. Not one of their own critical comments was not in my first book, which the executive producer read in the limited edition. The totality of it is unbelievable and is perhaps part of the reason they didn't mention my name or my work. I may try and do something about it, when there is less pressure.

Your reference to Garrison's response allows me brevity: he used the doctrine of "A Tiger To Ride", which opened his eyes when I gave it to him all one night and early the next morning and, I think, gave him the meaning of the fact he was coming accross.

Again, thanks. Best to joe and everyone else, from us both.

Love,

H.

I (we) will be in Phila 9/19 to speak at the Suburban Jewish Community Center, Haverton, I think. Do not know whether I'll do a radio show afterward or what will preceed or/or follow.